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647CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

94908

COUNTRY Argentina

DATE: 25X1X

SUBJECT Communist-Dominated "Maria Konopnicka" Society
(Polish) in Argentina
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ORIGIN [REDACTED]

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INFO. [REDACTED]

DIST. 23 July 1947

PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT

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SOURCE

1. The Sociedad Polonia Libre "Maria Konopnicka" (Society of Free Poland "Maria Konopnicka") with headquarters at Calles Trelles 2753, Buenos Aires, is the most important Polish Communist organization in Argentina, with an approximate active membership of 300.
2. The Board of Directors of the S.P.L. "M.K." is as follows:

President	--	Francisco Nowak (Nowak)
Sec.-General	--	Francisco Ograbek
Treasurer	--	Demitrio Semenluk (Ukrainian)
Reviving Committee	--	Wenceslao Stachnik
		Jose Wojtowicz
Cultural	--	Antonio Pauloski
3. The society was founded in 1940 by Sra. Elena Rosenblatt de Santiago, a Polish citizen, who belonged to the Communist Party in Poland, and who worked from 1937 to 1939 for the Gdynia-America Navigation Company in Buenos Aires. Sra. Rosenblatt de Santiago has always maintained contact with the Argentine Communist Party.
4. Despite the founding of the organization by Sra. Rosenblatt de Santiago, leadership and control was exercised by the Polish Communist Eustasio Kowalski, who returned to Poland in April of 1947. By infiltrating, the Communists were able to capture control of two small but long-established societies called "Wolna Polska" and "Maria Konopnicka". The two were later united under the present name of Sociedad Polonia Libre "Maria Konopnicka".
5. Essentially, the subject society is a Polish organization, but there is a large percentage of Ukrainians who belong to it. These Ukrainians hold Polish citizenship because they were born east of the Curzon line in the Polish provinces, and emigrated to Argentina before World War II. Most of those who came from the provinces of Volhynia, Wilno, and Bialystok were Communists before they left Europe.
6. After the subject society joined the Slav Union of Argentina, [REDACTED] instructions were issued by the Union that the subject society form a Circulo de Juventud Polaca (Circle of Polish Youth), for the purpose of spreading Communist propaganda among Polish youth. The extent of the membership of the latter group is not known, but it is believed that much success has been achieved by it through the holding of social affairs.

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- 2 -

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7. The society has also formed an aid committee, called Comite de Ayuda a Polonia, (Committee to Aid Poland), which is located at Calles Trelles 2753, Buenos Aires. This latter group is not to be confused with the Comite de Socorro a Las Victimas de la Guerra en Polonia, which is an anti-Communist group in Argentina. The objectives of the Comite de Ayuda a Polonia are said to be:

a. To form a front organization which will attract non-Communist Poles to membership, and then subject them to a barrage of propaganda.

b. To collect funds for "aid to Poland", but in reality to finance the local Communist Party.

8. The Board of Directors of the Comite de Ayuda a Polonia is composed of:

President	-	J. Mach
Sec.-General	-	W. Macnowski
Control Committee	-	Esterasiao Hajduga Jose Jankowski

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